

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DPW-01 IO-10 OMB-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05 /085 W

----- 024818

R 281200Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 38

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PHNOMPENH 5665

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PGOV CB

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY BROADENS ITS HINT  
FOR LON NOL TO LEAVE.

REF: PHNOM PENH 5512

1. SUMMARY. OFFICIAL FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY LE REPUBLICAIN HAS BROADENED ITS HINT THAT LON NOL SHOULD LEAVE. THE DAILY HAS IMPLIED A PARALLEL BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON, WHO RESIGNED WHEN HE REALIZED THE PEOPLE HAD "WRONGLY" WITHDRAWN CONFIDENCE IN HIM AND WHEN HE KNOW HIMSELF TO BE ILL, AND MARSHAL LON NOL, WHO IS STILL PARTIALLY PARALYZED FROM HIS 1971 STROKE AND WHO, BY IMPLICATION, HAS ALSO LOST POPULAR CONFIDENCE. PRESIDENT NIXON SET AN HISTORIC EXAMPLE, MERITING UNIVERSAL ADMIRATION AND RESPECT, THE PAPER CONCLUDES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MARCH 28 EDITION OF OFFICIAL FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY, LE REPUBLICAIN, MARKEDLY BROADENED ITS RECENT HINT THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE MARSHAL TO LEAVE.

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EARLIER THIS WEEK (REFTEL) LE RE

PUBLICAIN POINTED OUT

THAT A STATESMAN'S LOT IS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN MAJOR EVILS. INDIRECTLY AIMING TO LON NOL'S DEPARTURE, THE PAPER SUGGESTED THAT THE CHOICE AT HAND IN CAMBODIA REQUIRES SACRIFICING INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS WHICH MIGHT BE OBSTACLES TO GETTING NEGOTIATIONS STARTED.

3. UNDER THE TITLE, "AN HISTORIC EXAMPLE," THE LATEST ARTICLE RAISES THE CASE OF PRESIDENT NIXON, CITES HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND SUGGESTS HE DID NOT DESERVE TO SEE WATERGATE SAP PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN HIM. THE ARTICLE NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR POINT IS NOT TO DISCUSS PRESIDENT NIXON'S FATE, BUT RATHER TO APPLAUD HIS EXAMPLE WHEN FACED WITH THE REALIZATION THAT HE HAD LOST THE CONFIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES. "...DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE WAS ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT HE DID NOT DESERVE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, PRESIDENT NIXON VOLUNTARILY WITHDREW FROM POWER IN ORDER NOT TO EMBARRASS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND NOT TO IMPOSE ON THEM THE PRESENCE OF A CHIEF OF STATE WHOM THEY DEFINITELY DID NOT WANT."

4. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO NOTE THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WAS ALSO ILL AND KNEW THAT AT ANY MOMENT HE MIGHT BE DISABLED DUE TO A CIRCULATORY DISORDER AND FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO EXERCISE HIS NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. "A CHIEF OF STATE AS PRESTIGIOUS AS NIXON.... WHO RESIGNS BECAUSE THE PEOPLE HAVE WITHDRAWN CONFIDENCE IN HIM-- WHETHER RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY -- AND BECAUSE HE KNOWS HIMSELF TO BE ILL, MERITS UNIVERSAL RESPECT AND ADMIRATION. IN OUR HUMBLE OPINION, HIS IS AN HISTORIC EXAMPLE WHICH NO STATEMAN SHOULD EVER LOSE SIGHT OF."

5. COMMENT: LE REPUBLICAIN HAS IMPLIED A PARALLEL BETWEEN AN ILL AND UNPOPULAR NIXON AND LON NOL, WHO, OF COURSE IS PARTIALLY PARALYZED FROM A STROKE AND WHOSE FAMILY IS KNOWN TO HAVE A HISTORY OF STROKES. THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR OF LE REPUBLICAIN, DEPUTY SATH HASSAVY, IS ALSO PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, PEACE PLANS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Reference:** 75 PHNOM PENH 5512  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 MAY 2003  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, CB, (LON NOL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006